GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4772
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2000
SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER
TARACHAND BHAGORA

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have increased the allocation for providing drinking water to all rural habitants during the country in the next four years;

(b) if so, the names of States facing severe problem of polluted water which have been taken into account on priority basis; and

(c) the time by which the work on the said scheme is likely to be started/completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SUBHASH MAHARIA01)

(a): The Central outlay for rural water supply has been increasing every year during the Ninth Plan. The National Agenda for Governance (NAG) of the Government envisages provision of drinking water supply facilities to all rural habitations in five years.

(b): As per the information received from the States/UTs, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and the Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry are facing problems of chemical contamination of ground water sources.

(c): Drinking water being a State subject, the schemes for supply of safe drinking water to the rural habitations of the country are implemented by the State Governments under the State sector Minimum Needs Programme(MNP).The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).The State Governments can utilise upto 20% of the ARWSP funds for implementation of schemes to tackle the quality problem, under the Sub-Mission programme. The powers to plan, sanction and implement individual rural water supply schemes have been delegated to the State Governments. Accordingly, the scheme-wise details are maintained at the State level. However, As per the Comprehensive Action Plan prepared with the information provided by the State Governments in consonance with the NAG, all the rurahabitations of the country would be provided with access to safe drinking water supply in five years, subject to availability of funds.